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Deborah Tyroler

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El Salvador: Popular Social Christian Movement Leader Arrested

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Dec. 7, police released Jorge Villacorta, a leader of the Popular Social Christian Movement, after holding him for 15 hours. Villacorta was arrested at the airport Wednesday night when he arrived from Guatemala and Mexico. Party president Ruben Zamora said he had received assurances from the government that members of the party would not be harassed or persecuted. "This shows how irrelevant the civilian government is in this country," he said. "There is a clear attempt by the military to create a police state in El Salvador." A military spokesperson said Villacorta, who had spent several years in exile in Mexico and Costa Rica, was under investigation by the Treasury Police. Villacorta served briefly as minister of agriculture under a military government in 1979. (Basic data from AP, AFP, 12/07/89)

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